(c) No further grants can be released for the purpose as Eleventh Finance Commission award period was over on 31.3.2005.

Opening of additional branches of Banks

†1566. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of Nationalised Banks that have been permitted to open their additional branches during the year, 2006-07;

(b) the names of the places where the permission to open these branches has been granted;

(c) the branches out of these which have been issued licenses for opening by the Reserve Bank of India alongwith the dates on which these licences were issued; and

(d) the details of the action being taken to provide licences to the remaining branches?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) As reported by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the bank-wise details of the authorisations issued to nationalized banks for opening of branches during the period April, 2005 to March, 2006 (latest available) are given in the statement (*See* below).

RBI has revised its Branch Authorisation Policy and the earlier system of granting licences for individual branches from time to time has been replaced by a system of giving approvals on an annual basis. As such banks are not required to obtain licences for individual branches. A consolidated Letter of Authorisation/Permission is being issued to the banks by the RBI for opening of 'branches' with the name of the center (city/town/village). No specific location within the center is prescribed and banks are free to open the branch at any location within the center for which the authorization has been given. Banks are expected to open the branches within one year from the date of the Letter of Authorisation.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Statement

Bank-wise details of authorisations granted to Nationalised Banks for opening of branches during the period April 2005—March 2006

Sl.No.	Name of the Bank	Branches
1.	Allahabad Bank	50
2.	Andhra Bank	27
3.	Bank of Baroda	20
4.	Bank of India	23
5.	Bank of Maharashtra	50
6.	Canara Bank	20
7.	Central Bank of India	4
8.	Corporation Bank	45
9.	Indian Bank	13
10.	Indian Overseas Bank	20
11.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	67
12.	Punjab National Bank	35
13.	Syndicate Bank	37
14.	UCO Bank	50
15.	Union Bank of India	99
16.	United Bank of India	4
17.	Vijaya Bank	30
	TOTAL	594

Vigilance cases pending against Tax Officials

1567. SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether corruption in tax departments relates to connivance of the corrupt officials with the evaders;

(b) how many corrupt officials have been nabbed so far and how many vigilance cases are pending against such officers; and